

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAN SA 05734 141455Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 L-01 MCE-00 ACDA-10 EB-04  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /056 W  
-----039738 150307Z /72

R 141421Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6336  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
SECDEFWASHDC  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 5734

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, OAS, HO, ES  
SUBJECT: ARMS RESTRAINT AND THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 5746

1. WE HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA'S  
5746 AND WOULD LIKE TO GO ON RECORD AS CONCURRING IN ITS  
RECOMMENDATION THAT FURTHER HONDURAN ACQUISITION OF SUPER  
MYSTERE JET FIGHTERS WITH US-ORIGIN ENGINES BE DISCOURAGED  
AND IF NECESSARY DISAPPROVED.

2. AS EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA POINTS OUT, EXISTING HONDURAN  
AIR STRENGTH ALREADY SEEMS MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR ANY  
FORESEEABLE NEED. TO GO ON ADDING SUPER MYSTERE JETS  
WILL ONLY RISK GENERATING UNEASINESS AND COMPETITIVE  
APPETITES ON THE PART OF CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBORS.

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SHOULD THIS TRANSLATE INTO WIDESPREAD NEW PURCHASES,  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE REGION  
ARE LIKELY TO SUFFER.

3. HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR HAVE JUST SETTLED ON PERU'S  
JOSE LUIS BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO AS MEDIATOR TO SEEK TO  
SETTLE THE EXISTING CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE FOR THIS PEACEKEEPING EFFORT WILL  
HARDLY BE HELPED BY CONTINUED HONDURAN ACQUISITION OF  
JET FIGHTERS AT A TIME WHEN THAT COUNTRY'S AIR FORCE  
ALREADY ENJOYS A CLEAR SUPERIORITY.

4. FINALLY, AS DEPT IS AWARE, EL SALVADOR IN THE FACE  
OF HONDURAN AIR SUPERIORITY IS CONTEMPLATING PURCHASE  
OF NEW SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT. ANY POSSIBILITY OF  
DISCOURAGING THIS OR OF HOLDING DOWN THE NUMBER OF SUCH  
NEW PLANES IS LESSENERED TO THE EXTENT THAT HONDURAS GOES  
ON WIDENING THE PRESENT GAP BETWEEN AIR CAPABILITIES OF  
THE TWO NATIONS.

5. IN CONCLUSION THEN, WE SUGGEST THAT AS SEEN FROM HERE  
CONSIDERATIONS OF ARMS RESTRAINT, PEACEKEEPING POLICY,  
AND UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
NEEDS ALL SUPPORT EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA'S RECOMMENDATION  
THAT ADDITIONAL SUPER MYSTERE PURCHASES BE DISCOURAGED  
OR DISAPPROVED.

DEVINE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SANSAS05734  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** ARMS RESTRAINT AND THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PINT, HO, ES, OAS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/194b3a04-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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